



WASHINGTON STATE
ARTS COMMISSION

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NEWS RELEASE

ArtsWA Board taps Brenda Nienhouse to lead



Brenda Nienhouse, ArtsWA Board Chair
Photo courtesy the Spokane Symphony

Olympia—The Board of the Washington State Arts Commission has elected Brenda Nienhouse, Spokane, as Chair through August 2014. Nienhouse is the Executive Director of the Spokane Symphony and Martin Woldson Theater at The Fox, in Spokane. Governor Christine Gregoire appointed Nienhouse to the ArtsWA Board in July 2011.

Nienhouse is nationally recognized for her leadership in renovating the historic Fox Theater in downtown Spokane. The theater reopened in 2007 and has helped to significantly boost the economic upswing of the city's core.

"Brenda is a respected leader in the Spokane area and brings wonderful skill and important perspective to the work of ArtsWA," said Kris Tucker, ArtsWA Executive Director.

Other officers elected during the August meeting, which took place in Spokane, were:

- **Andy Fife, Seattle, First Vice Chair.** Fife is a coach, trainer and consultant in arts and non-profit management and policy.
- **Amanda Jackson Mott, Twisp, Second Vice Chair.** Jackson Mott is the Executive Director of the Methow Arts Alliance in the Methow Valley

The Board also honored outgoing Chair, Cindy Finnie, Port Townsend. Finnie was appointed by Governor Gregoire in 2005 and chaired the Commission for 3 years. By law, a commissioner appointed by the Governor cannot serve more than two 3-year terms without requesting a special exception.

"Cindy's strong leadership skills enabled the Commission to strengthen relationships with the Legislature and two Governors, as well as developing a smart and ambitious strategic plan for the coming years," said Tucker. "Her work with ArtsWA is recognized nationally, and it has been a privilege to work with her."

Commissioners guide the direction of and set policy for ArtsWA. They also advise the Governor and legislators regarding the arts in Washington. The Governor appoints 19 commissioners to the Board, while the legislative caucuses appoint four.

Established by the Legislature in 1961, ArtsWA collaborates with artists and arts organizations to conserve and develop critical artistic resources throughout the state. Brief biographies of all ArtsWA commissioners are available at www.arts.wa.gov.

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